

CONSTITUTION OF HABONIM DROR NORTH AMERICA

The Labor Zionist Youth Movement

Preamble

Habonim Dror North America, The Labor Zionist Youth Movement, strives to upbuild a new social order throughout the world, based on the principles of social justice, cooperative economics and political democracy embodied in the vision of the Prophets and exemplified in the achievements of the Chalutzim. The renaissance of the Jewish People is directly connected with the evolution of a just world, as is the self-determination of all peoples.

Aliyah to communal frameworks actively working in pursuit of our ideological aims is an effective path to the actualization of our movement goals. We constantly seek alternative social forms based on the concepts of collectivism, which are deeply rooted in our Jewish heritage. Developing a positive Jewish identity is fundamental to the fulfillment of our ideology. We reject those institutions of modern society that repress and exploit the individual and that mechanize and degrade human relationships. Furthermore, only active concern and personal involvement can alleviate the ills of society and bring about this just world.

To these ends, we celebrate the creation of one united Labor Zionist Youth Movement based on the merger of Ichud Habonim Labor Zionist Youth and Dror Zionist Youth and adopt this Constitution as a foundation for our continued activism. Moreover, we call upon all who hold a progressive vision of Israel, the Jewish community, and society at large to join in the implementation of these ideals.

Article I: Name

Habonim Dror North America is an independent, autonomous entity organized as a New York not-for-profit corporation and incorporated under the name "Habonim Labor Zionist Youth, Inc." and the organization shall also be known as Habonim Dror North America. In Hebrew, the name is "Habonim Dror b'Tsafon America." Henceforth the organization will be referred to as Habonim Dror or the Movement.

Article II: Aims

As an autonomous Labor Zionist youth movement whose members strive for the concrete expression of its ideals in their own lives and society, Habonim Dror has the following aims:

To upbuild the State of Israel as a progressive, egalitarian, cooperative society, at peace with its neighbors; actively involved in a Peace Process with the Palestinian people with the common goal of a just and lasting peace; and as the physical and spiritual center of the Jewish people. To this end, Habonim Dror calls first and foremost for Aliya to communal and collective frameworks that actively work to achieve the aforementioned goal. In addition, Habonim Dror also calls for active involvement in progressive Zionist and Jewish issues in Diaspora communities.

To strengthen the relationship between North American Jewish youth and Judaism through their involvement in progressive Jewish communities with the purposes of enlisting their participation in the upbuilding of a renewed Jewish culture. This will be accomplished by the development of individual Jewish identities by means of promoting the exploration of Jewish spirituality, the full expression of the Hebrew language, an understanding of Jewish history and a personal relationship with Israel.

To participate in the creation of a new social order throughout the world, based on the principles of self-determination, individual freedom, political democracy, and cooperative economics, *the equality of all people* and the equality of human value.

To participate in constructive activities in the North American Jewish community while advocating change where necessary to foster Jewish continuity and creativity and the democratization of the community.

To develop within its members the will to realize their own capabilities and to develop a collectivist attitude to actualize the movements goals through cooperative frameworks (kvutzah).

Article III: Membership

Section 1. Membership in Habonim Dror is open to all youth in the United States and Canada who recognize, accept and adhere to the principles of the Movement.

Section 2. Membership in Habonim Dror shall be divided into three groups with the following designations:

CHANICHIM—Grades 2-10

NACHSHONIM—Graduates of the Hadracha programs (MBI and Madatz) and/or chaverim/ot of the equivalent ages.

MA'APILIM—Members and graduates of the Workshop program and/or chaverim/ot of the equivalent ages and all chaverim/ot of the pre-Workshop kvutza who work at a Habonim Dror machaneh.

Section 3. Nachshonim and Ma'apilim members shall have the right to be represented and to vote at meetings of members, provided they have paid the prevailing Mas. Each such member shall be entitled to one vote. Chanichim shall not have the right to vote.

Article IV: Meetings

Section 4. Winter Seminar: Habonim Dror shall hold an annual meeting of the voting members, at a time and place determined by the Mazkirut Artzit, which shall be known as Winter Seminar.

Section 5. Veida: Habonim Dror shall hold a biennial meeting of the membership, which shall be known as Veida. The Veida shall be held at a time and place determined by the Mazkirut Artzit, to set policy and direction for Habonim Dror. Veida decisions can be amended or set aside only by the Veida. Decisions are made in this forum that relate to ideology, programming, movement projects and movement programs. Any member eligible to vote may bring a proposal to the Veida. The Veida also elects the Mazkir/a. If the election or re-election of the Mazkir/a occurs during a year when there is no Veida, the Mazkir/a shall be elected at Winter Seminar.

Section 6. Quorum for any meeting of members shall be set at the lesser of one hundred votes or one-tenth of the members eligible to vote.

Article V: Membership in Good-Standing

Section 7. Chanichim: A member in good-standing of the Chanichim shall pay the prevailing Mas, attend peulot regularly and indicate interest and good faith in being in the movement. Such a member may then participate in movement programs, vote in local decision-making forums and receive movement publications. Chanichim recognize the principles of Habonim Dror.

Section 8. Nachshonim: A member in good-standing of the Nachshonim shall pay the prevailing Mas, attend peulot regularly and be willing to assume positions and tasks of responsibility within his/her kvutza, ken and/or eizor. Such a member may then participate in movement programs, vote in local decision-making forums, participate in a Veida and receive movement publications. Nachshonim recognize and accept the principles of Habonim Dror.

Section 9. Ma'apilim: A member in good-standing of the Ma'apilim shall pay the prevailing Mas and assume positions and tasks of responsibility and leadership in an eizor, or machaneh of Habonim Dror, or be an active participant in a Ken Ma'apilim, or in some other form of Zionist work, such as J Street U. Ma'apilim should take an active role in the ken unless there is a valid reason for one not to participate. Ma'apilim recognize, accept, and adhere to the principles of Habonim Dror.

To be a Ma'apil/a in good-standing requires striving for the following goals:

- 1) Becoming knowledgeable in the Hebrew language, Jewish History, a pluralist Jewish Culture, Jewish Traditions and Jewish Sources.
- 2) Being an activist and a leader in the Jewish Community.

- 3) Being an activist and leader in the struggle for Social Justice in the world.
- 4) Creating a personal relationship with the Jewish Homeland by returning to Israel on a long term basis.

Article VI: Board of Directors

Section 10. Habonim Dror shall be managed by its Board of Directors, which shall be known as the Mazkirut Artzit, and shall consist of not less than three individuals. The Mazkirut Artzit shall include, but not be limited to, the Mazkir/a, Gizbar/it, the Merakez/et Tochniot, and Shaliach/a Merkaz/it. The Mazkir/a shall be elected to the Mazkirut Artzit for a two-year term by the eligible voting membership at the Veida or at Winter Seminar if the election occurs during a year when there is no Veida. The remaining members shall be appointed by the current Mazkirut Artzit in consultation with the incoming Mazkir/a. The members of the Mazkirut Artzit appointed shall serve for a term of two years, unless determined otherwise by the Mazkirut Artzit, and until their successors are appointed and qualified, or until their earlier resignation, removal or death. All candidates for the positions within the Mazkirut Artzit, except for the Shaliach/a Merkazit, shall be Ma'apilim who are members in good standing of Habonim Dror.

Section 11. Meetings of the Mazkirut Artzit may be held at any place within or without the State of New York as may be fixed by the Mazkirut Artzit from time to time. The Mazkirut Artzit may fix times and places for regular meetings of the Mazkirut Artzit and no notice of such meetings need be given. Special meetings of the Mazkirut Artzit may be called at any time by the Mazkir/a, or by any two or more members of the Mazkirut Artzit.

Section 12. Notice of a meeting need not be given to any member of the Mazkirut Artzit who submits a signed waiver of notice whether before or after the meeting, or who attends the meeting without protesting, prior thereto or at its commencement, the lack of notice. A notice or waiver of notice need not specify the purpose of any regular or special meeting of the Mazkirut Artzit.

Section 13. Quorum for all meetings of the Mazkirut Artzit shall be set at one-half of the entire Mazkirut Artzit. Except as otherwise provided by law or by this Constitution, the vote of a majority of the members of the Mazkirut Artzit present at a meeting at the time of the vote, if a quorum is present at such time, shall be the act of the Mazkirut Artzit.

Section 14. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Mazkirut Artzit or any committee thereof may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Mazkirut Artzit or such committee consent in writing to the adoption of a resolution authorizing such action. Each resolution so adopted and the written consents thereto by members of the Mazkirut Artzit or such committee shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Mazkirut Artzit or such committee.

Section 15. Any one or more members of the Mazkirut Artzit or of any committee may participate in a meeting by telephone, webcast or similar equipment allowing all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Section 16. The Mazkirut Artzit, by resolution adopted by a majority of the entire Mazkirut Artzit, may designate from among its members an Executive Committee and other standing committees, each consisting of three or more members of the Mazkirut Artzit, and each of which, to the extent provided in the resolution, shall have all the authority of the Mazkirut Artzit.

Article VII: Officers

Section 17. The day-to-day affairs of Habonim Dror shall be managed by the officers of Habonim Dror, which shall be the Mazkir/a, Merakez/et Tochniot and Gizbar/it, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary by the Mazkirut Artzit.

Section 18. The Mazkir/a shall serve as the president and chief officer of Habonim Dror and preside at all meetings of the Mazkirut Artzit. The Mazkir/a shall perform all duties customary to that office and shall oversee all of the affairs of Habonim Dror in accordance with policies and directives approved by the Mazkirut Artzit. The Mazkir/a shall be the official spokesperson of the movement.

Section 19. The Merakaz/et Tochniot shall serve as the secretary of Habonim Dror and shall be responsible for the keeping of an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Mazkirut Artzit, shall give or cause to be

given all notices in accordance with this Constitution or as required by law, and, in general, shall perform all duties customary to that office. The Merakaz/et Tochinot shall have custody of the corporate seal of Habonim Dror, if any; and shall have authority to affix the same to any instrument requiring it; and, when so affixed, it may be attested by his/her signature.

Section 20. The Gizbar/it shall serve as the treasurer of Habonim Dror and shall have the custody of, and be responsible for, all funds and securities of Habonim Dror; shall keep or cause to be kept complete and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements; and shall deposit all monies and other valuable property in the name and to the credit of Habonim Dror in such banks or depositories as the Mazkirut Artzit may designate. Whenever required by the Mazkirut Artzit, the Gizbar/it shall render a statement of accounts. The Gizbar/it shall at all reasonable times exhibit the books and accounts to any officer of Habonim Dror or member of the Mazkirut Artzit and shall perform all duties incident to the office of Gizbar/it, subject to the supervision of the Mazkirut Artzit, and such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the Mazkirut Artzit. The Gizbar/it shall present a financial and budget report each year. In a Veida year, this will take place at the Veida so that a vote of confidence may be taken. In odd years, the budget will be presented at the Winter Seminar.

Article VIII: Advisory Committees

Section 21. Habonim Dror shall have the following committees to provide advice and recommendations to the members of Habonim Dror. These committees shall be advisory only and actions, recommendations and opinions of individuals, either individually or collectively, while serving on such committees shall not bind Habonim Dror, by agency, or otherwise, unless ratified in writing by the Mazkirut Artzit.

(a) A committee which shall be known as the Mercaz shall consist of the Rashei Eizor, Rashei Ken, Shlichim and the Mazkirut Artzit. All decisions made by the Mercaz shall be in accordance with the decisions of the Veida. The Mercaz shall meet at least annually.

(b) A committee which shall be known as the Camping Association shall be comprised of the Mazkirut Artzit and representatives from each Habonim Dror camp, including MBI. The Mazkirut Artzit shall represent MBI as one of the camps of Habonim Dror. Each camp shall have three votes in the Camping Association, as shall the Mazkirut Artzit. The Camping Association is a forum for Habonim Dror and representatives from each camp to discuss movement policies in respect to camping that ensure the well-being of Habonim Dror. It shall meet annually.

(c) Committees which shall be known as Camp Committees may be involved in recommendations for the educational programming at Habonim Dror camps. Ultimate decisions concerning programming shall be made by members of Habonim Dror.

(d) A committee which shall be known as the Moetzet Chinuch consists of the Rosh Machaneh and Merakez/et Chinuch of all the machanot, Shlichim and the Mazkirut Artzit. All decisions made by the Moetzet Chinuch shall be in accordance with the decisions of the Veida. The Moetzet Chinuch shall meet annually in March.

(e) A committee which shall be known as the Moetzet Machanot consists of the Rosh Machaneh, Merakez/et Chinuch, Merakez/et Techni, and Madrichei Madatz of all the machanot, Shlichim and the Mazkirut Artzit. All decisions made by the Moetzet Machanot shall be in accordance with the decisions of the Veida. The Moetzet Machanot shall meet annually each May.

(f) A committee which shall be known as the Rakazei T'nua shall consist of one or more Ma'apilim in Good-Standing who fill volunteer positions as needed by the Mazkirut Artzit. In addition to their specific roles, the Rakazei T'nua shall be included in the running of movement seminars.

Article IX: Mas (Dues)

Section 22. A central mas shall be fixed by the Mazkirut Artzit and shall be collected annually by the machanot, including MBI, along with tuition. This mas will apply to all members of the Movement, except Ma'apilim.

Section 23. A membership mas for Ma'apilim shall be fixed by the Mazkirut Artzit and collected annually. Mas shall be automatically deducted each year from the salaries of Ma'apilim who work at machaneh. For Ma'apilim who do not work at machaneh, mas shall be included in the payment of the first national program attended that year.

Section 24. Mas collected at the Machanot shall be sent to the Mazkirut Artzit by the respective Camp Committees and is non-negotiable.

Section 25. If a Ma'apil/a is unable to pay mas they are encouraged to utilize the kupa system. If after exploring this option they still find themselves unable to pay, they can appeal directly to the Mazkirut Artzit for a refund and they shall be reimbursed. Requests must be received by September 30th after the summer or one month after the attended seminar.

Article X: Implementation of the Constitution

Section 26. Regulations for the implementation of the Constitution shall be adopted by the Veida.

Section 27. The regulations for the implementation of the Constitution shall be amendable by the normal decision-making procedure at a Veida.

Article XI: Referendum

Section 28. Upon the initiative of a three-quarters majority of the Mazkirut Artzit, the Mazkirut Artzit shall conduct a referendum among all the members in good-standing of the Nachshonim and Ma'apilim of the Movement to determine the sentiment of Habonim Dror on any question. Decisions supported by a majority of those voting shall have the effect of a Veida decision, provided that 75% of the eligible ballots are returned.

Section 29. At Veidot, a motion to refer any question to a referendum, if supported by a majority (50% +1) "yes" votes, shall require the Mazkirut Artzit to conduct a referendum according to the procedure described above.

Article XII: Amendments

Section 30. This Constitution, or any part of it, may be amended by a Veida decision according to the Regulations and Procedures for the Implementation of the Consitution. The day before the start of Veida will be devoted to discussion of constitutional amendments. Amendments must be submitted prior to the beginning of the day of discussion.